

## History of VA Loma Linda Healthcare System

**January 17, 1967:** H.R. Bill 2573 was presented to the 90<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States authorizing the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to construct a hospital in the Riverside - San Bernardino area.

**August 20, 1971:** President Richard Nixon came to Loma Linda with his personal announcement that the hospital would be built. This announcement came six months after an earthquake leveled VA's San Fernando hospital killing 44 patients and staff.

**June 16, 1974:** Groundbreaking for the facility took place celebrating an investment of \$70 million for the land and buildings.

**February 14, 1975:** Congressman Jerry L. Pettis died at the age of 58 in a plane crash. The Medical Center would become a memorial for the Congressman and was named the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center.

**September 25, 1977:** Over 5,000 people attended the Dedication Ceremonies. At the time of dedication over 200 employees were on duty with the expectation of a total of 1,515 staff and a yearly budget of \$32,610,200, once the facility was fully operational. It would take 15 months to activate the Medical Center

**December 27, 1977:** The first patient was admitted to the facility. Once activated, the facility had a total of 500 beds including 216 Medical, 164

Surgical, 60 Psychiatric and a 60-bed Nursing Home Care Unit.

**October 19 1987:** The Facility dedicated its new 60-bed Nursing Home Care Unit addition.

**July 1997:** The Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center extended their presence with the opening of community based primary care clinics. This Medical Center services the largest geographical area in the nation. These clinics make services more accessible and patient-friendly to the veterans we serve.

These clinics are a model for other VA thorough-out the nation due to the innovative partnership with our affiliate the Loma Linda University. The clinics are staffed by physicians and support staff from the Loma Linda University Medical Center.

### **Clinic locations that extend Loma Linda VA care into the community:**

Victorville VA Clinic opened July 1997

Sun City VA Clinic opened August 1998

Palm Desert VA Clinic opened January 1999

Upland VA Clinic opened April 2001

Corona VA Clinic opened November 2001

### **Loma Linda VA Directors**

Winton D. Ross 1977 to 1979

Calvin E. Chandler 1979 to 1982

Andrew Montana 1982 to 1985

John F. Hickman 1985 to 1990

Charles E. Clark 1990 to 1992

Dean R. Stordahl 1992 to 2008

Donald F. Moore 2008 to present

